The President pointed out that the main object of the Bill was to afford protection to the debtor, but that, as between contending heirs, they were at perfect liberty to go to a Court of law.

Mr. Subba Iyer said that, whereas in the case of an interpleader suit, the debtor had to pay a court fee of 5 per centum on the value of the subject-matter of the dispute, under the proposed Bill, he would have to pay only 2 per cent. As for the 2 per cent itself, the amount was intended to cover the actual expenses and, if that be considered excessive, it might be reduced at the time when the Bill came up before the Council for discussion.

The Council affirmed the principle of the Bill and it was referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Mover, and Messrs. Sesha Iyer, Vieyra, Parameswaran Menon and Raman Pillai, to report within two months.

THE IRRIGATION REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Iyer then introduced the Irrigation Regulation Amendment Bill and said that the amendments were mainly of a verbal nature. It was thought desirable that the Division Peishkar or any other officer should be authorised to sanction any urgent work without the previous sanction of the Dewan and that the Government should take power under the Regulation to delegate any of the powers conferred on the Dewan to any Division Peishkar or other officer. Mr. Subba Iyer therefore moved that the principle of the Bill be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Kumara Pillai.

Carried.

The Bill was then committed to a Select Committee consisting of the Mover and Messrs Kuriyan, Kumara Pillai and Mahadeva Iyer, to report within one month.

THE COMPANIES REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Iyer next introduced the Companies Regulation Amendment Bill. He said that the Regulation in force was passed so long ago as 1063 and that the provisions thereof were found insufficient to meet the present requirements. He therefore moved that the principle of the Bill be affirmed and that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

Seconded by Mr. Pa[illegible] Pillai.

Carried.

The Bill was entrusted to a Select Committee consisting of the Mover, and Messrs Rengaswami Iyengar, Richardson, Sesha Iyer, Vieyra and Parameswaren Pillai, to report within four months.

THE POLICE REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Iyer moved that the Police Regulation Amendment Bill be finally read and passed.

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Iyer.

Carried.

THE MOTOR VEHICLES REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Iyer moved that the Motor Vehicles Regulation Amendment Bill be finally read and passed.

Seconded by Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.

Carried.

THE OPIUM BILL.

Mr. Subba Iyer presented the report of the Select Committee on the Opium Bill and moved that the report with the Bill be taken up for consideration.

Seconded by Mr. Subrahmanya Iyer.

Carried.

Section 4.

Mr. Sesha Iyer said that this Section looked at first sight to be inconsistent with Section 5 in that it would appear to permit the cultivation of the poppy under certain Rules to be framed by the Government, while Section 5, which dealt with the power of the Government to frame Rules was silent about the cultivation of the poppy. He therefore moved that Clause (a) of this Section relating to the cultivation of the poppy be omitted. Mr. Sesha Iyer further stated that, if it was the policy of the Government to prohibit the cultivation of the poppy altogether, it might be clearly so stated in the Regulation.

The President thereupon suggested that the following be put in as Section 4 "The cultivation of the poppy is prohibited." He also suggested that the remaining Sections be renumbered and that Clause (a) of the renumbered Section 5 be omitted.

The Council accepted the President's suggestions.

Section 5 renumbered as Section 6.

Mr. Mahadeva Iyer moved that the words "Our Government may" be substituted for the words "Our Dewan may, with Our sanction" in the first line of this Section, so as to make it correspond with the wording in the other Sections.

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